

REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 19-33, 37, 39-42, 46-52 and 56 are pending herein. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that light is emitted from the pixels only during the second period. The amendment to claim 1 is supported in the specification at pages 6-7, for example. Claims 19, 37, 39, 47, 48 and 49 have been amended in a similar manner. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. Claims 3-9, 12, 13, 15, 21-27, 30, 31 and 33 stand withdrawn from consideration.

Examiner Sherman is thanked for courtesies extended to Applicants' undersigned representative during a telephonic interview on February 13, 2007. The substance of that interview has been incorporated into the following remarks.

Applicant respectfully submits that this Amendment After Final Rejection is proper under Rule 1.16 and should be entered because the amendment simply clarifies the claim language. During the interview, Examiner Sherman agreed to enter this Amendment.

1. Claims 1-2, 14, 19-20, 32, 37, 39-40, 46-50 and 56 were rejected under §103(a) over Itoh '537 in view of Ito (JP 05-325777). To the extent that this rejection may be applied against the amended claims, it is respectfully traversed.

First, as discussed during the interview, the Office Action states the alleged motivation to modify the disclosure of Itoh '537 is "in order to provide stable electron emission" (Office Action at page 4). There is noting in the record that supports the assertion that having the electrodes in direct contact with the emitter, as in Ito, provides more stable electron emission than the device configuration disclosed by Itoh. Since the cited references fail to provide a motivation to modify the teachings of Itoh as alleged, the Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Further, as discussed during the interview with reference to claim 1, the device of the present invention operates by accumulating the necessary charges during a first period and emitting electrons when a voltage is applied during a second period that follows the first period. In contrast, the device disclosed by Itoh begins emitting electrons during a first period, Tr, and continues to emit electrons during a second period, Th, to hold the display luminance state. Specifically, paragraph [0059] of Itoh discloses:

Basically, the operation is so carried out that under the conditions that a one-frame period Tr is constituted by a write period Tr and a hold period Th, the picture cells are driven for luminescence in response to a display signal during the write period Tr, luminescence/non-luminescence of the picture cells obtained in the write period Tr are maintained during the hold period Th and all picture cells are reset to an initial state at the end of the frame period Tf.

Thus, the device disclosed by Itoh operates in a different manner than the present invention. To further clarify this difference, independent claims 1, 19, 37, 39, 47, 48 and 49 have been amended to recite that light (or electrons) is (are) emitted from the pixels (electron emitters) only during the second period.

Based on the above, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection of claims 1-2, 14, 19-20, 32, 37, 39-40, 46-50 and 56 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

2. Claims 10, 28, 41 and 51 were rejected under §103(a) over Itoh '537 in view of Ito (JP 05-325777), further in view of Doyle, and claims 11, 29, 42 and 52 were rejected under §103(a) over Itoh '537 in view of Ito (JP 05-325777), further in view of Kuno. These rejections are respectfully traversed, because all of these claims ultimately depend from independent claims 1, 19, 39 or 49, and independent claims 1, 19, 39 and 49 are patentable for the reasons explained above.

If Examiner Sherman believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, he is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

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Date

Respectfully submitted,


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